

Miscellaneous Notes

1. STATUS OF THE TIGER IN BURMA

In *WILD LIFE SANCTUARIES* by Kyaw Gyi, Sarpay Brikman of the Printing and Publishing Corporation 1973, the author states that according to Forest Department's estimate there were 1621 tigers in Burma in 1962.

Outside Reserves	1195
Inside Reserves	426
	<hr/>
	1621

The total land area of Burma is 261227 square miles. The area under forests is known to be 149783 square miles or 57 per cent of the total land area in the Union. The area under Reserved Forests is 34068 square miles or 13 per cent of the total land area in the Union.

J. D. Bitkinson 1948 (*Forests and Forestry in Burma. Jour. Roy. Soc. Arts*, London 96:478-491) states that Burma has almost the same area of actual forest as India.

The author of *WILD LIFE SANCTUARIES* is a retired Chief Conservator of Forests, Burma.

25, INYA MYAING ROAD,
UNIVERSITY P.O.,
RANGOON, BURMA,
September 17, 1973.

TUN YIN

2. WEIGHT AND SIZE AT BIRTH OF TWO SPECIES OF WILD MAMMALS IN CAPTIVITY

This note deals with the weight and size at birth of two species of wild mammals observed at Nandankanan Biological Park, Orissa. The weight and measurements were taken within twelve hours of birth.

Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*)

The four kittens born in one litter on 17.1.1973 weighed from 103 to 126 gm with an average of 111.25 gm and measured from 22 to 24 cm with an average of 22.5 cm from nose tip to tail tip including 6 cm to 7 cm (average 6.5 cm) long tail at birth.

In available literature, there appears to be no report on weight and size of this cat at birth.

Indian Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa cristatus*)

The seven piglets (one out of 4 born in one litter on 10.viii.'72 and 6 born in one litter on 23.ix.1972) weighed from 325 to 665 gm with an average of 557.43 gm and measured from 31.5 to 37 cm with an average of 35 cm from nose tip to tail tip including 4.5 cm to 6 cm (average 5.36 cm) long tail. The shoulder heights were from 14 to 16.5 cm with an average of 15.36 cm. The one young which weighed 325 gm and measured 31.5 cm could not stand without support as it was very weak at birth.

The literature available to us has no report on this subject.

VETERINARY ASST. SURGEON,
NANDANKANAN BIOLOGICAL PARK,
P.O. BARANG, DIST: CUTTACK.

L. N. ACHARJYO

WILD LIFE CONSERVATION OFFICER,
OLD SECRETARIATE BUILDING,
CUTTACK-1 (ORISSA),
February 21, 1973.

R. MISRA

3. BURROWING HABITS OF THE GREATER BANDICOOT
RAT (*BANDICOTA INDICA*)

(With a text-figure)

INTRODUCTION

The Greater Bandicoot Rat is one of our largest rodents, weighing on an average more than one kilogram. It is a confirmed commensal of man, always living in close vicinity of human dwellings and feeding on refuse and storage products. The Greater Bandicoot Rat is not conspicuous for its large burrows which cause considerable damage to huts and godowns. Practically nothing is known of the biology of this animal in spite of its being one of most serious rodent pests of India. The present note is an account of its burrowing habits.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This account is based on an investigation of the structure of eighty-three bandicoot burrows. All the burrows under study were currently or very recently occupied as evidenced by the presence of soil produced by fresh diggings and sighting of the bandicoot rats by local inhabit-